



THE GREBE

Published by The Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge

Volume 2, Issue 4

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ♦ **May 1 -**
MONTHLY MEETING at 7
p.m. at Deer Flat Visitor
Center
- ♦ **May 8 -**
Lecture Series
(Local fish identifica-
tion)
- ♦ **May 19 -**
Weed Warriors,
Ride and Roam the
Refuge, International
Migratory Bird Day
celebration
- ♦ **June 5 -**
MONTHLY MEETING at 7
p.m. at Deer Flat Visitor
Center
- ♦ **June 5 -**
Lecture Series
(Biodiversity and Zoo
Boise)
- ♦ **June 8 & 9 -**
Bio Blitz
- ♦ **June 16 -**
Weed Warriors

If you have a story that
you would like to have
published in "The Grebe",
please contact Denise
Hughes, 850-5885 or
den_hug@hotmail.com

International Migratory Bird Day Celebration & Ride and Roam

Ride: 10:00 to 11:00
a.m. - tour the trail
from the visitor center
to the observation
deck,

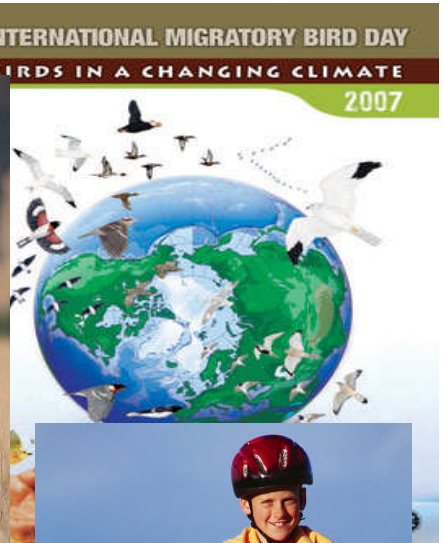
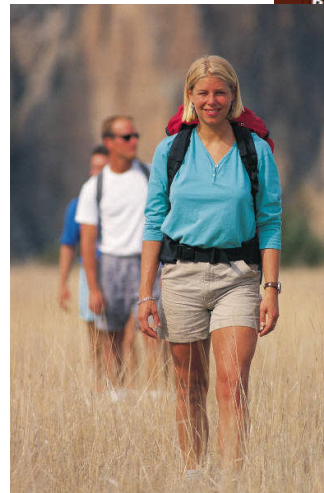
Roam & Activities:
11:00 a.m. to 12:30
p.m. - meet at the
visitor center for a
scavenger hunt and
other activities,

*Bring a picnic lunch
and join everyone on
the back lawn at the
visitor center,*

Live Bird & Program:
1:00 to 3:00 p.m. - this
is a great opportunity
to view Slim, the
Golden Eagle, up
close. Bruce Haak, a
biologist with Idaho
Department of Fish
and Game will discuss

the new Idaho Bird-
ing Trail and the
importance of birds
in our environment.

Join us for a great
day at the refuge.
Bring your children
or grandchildren,
niece or nephew,
friend or neighbor
for an unforgettable day of fun. Don't forget to
bring a lunch for a picnic on the back lawn of
the visitor center.



President's Corner

I want to extend a very big thank you to Lee and Al McGlinsky for being the project leaders for the Earth Day booth. We used our new equipment: canopy, table and display board. The display board was lovely. The event was a success and we had the opportunity to tell hundreds of visitors about our Friends group. Again, let me thank Al and Lee McGlinsky and Genevieve Johannnsen, Julie Parsons, Gary Worthington and Connie Leavitt for spending their Saturday staffing our Earth Day booth.



On Tuesday, April 17th, Shane Johnson, a reporter from Channel 6 interviewed Elaine Johnson about the budget cuts that all national wildlife refuges are facing and how it will impact Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge. The news crew arrived just in time film the 'Reading at the Refuge' program. Mr. Johnson learned about the Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge while interviewing Elaine and set up an interview for the following Sunday. Lee McGlinsky, Lyndell Jackson and I met Mr.

Johnson and his cameraman; we discussed the importance of the refuge to us and to the other people who live here in the Treasure Valley. Lee invited them into the visitor center and they filmed the Grebe Nest. Lee even made two sales while the bookstore was open for filming.

By Noreen Tripp, President

The Friends are Refuge Helpers!



The Friends have adopted a section of the Refuge with the Refuge Helpers program. It's similar to the Adopt-A-Highway program; individuals or groups can adopt a section to keep free of litter.

We have adopted a section of Iowa Avenue and have been working hard to keep it clean. We clean our section at each of the refuge wide Litter Lifts in April and September as well as two other times. We cleaned in February and are tentatively scheduled to clean again next fall. Everyone who wants to participate is welcome!

New Members



Please welcome our newest members:

*Claudia and Bob Borgna,
*Arlynn Hacker

MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of this group is to promote, protect, and provide resources to preserve and enhance Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge for the enjoyment of present and future generations.



As usual, the weather in Idaho can change rapidly. These photos show a storm passing across the refuge and an hour later, a beautiful sunset. I'll be the lone fisherman thought so also.



Development Around the Refuge

The Kastera high density housing development near Lake Lowell appealed to the County Commissioners to reverse the two previous denials of their proposal by the Canyon Planning & Zoning Commission. Harold Nevill, Alliance for Responsible Growth, organized the opposition testimony. Noreen Tripp, Friends president, and Friends members, Lyndell Jackson, Rene Bine and Jon Minkoff all made excellent points in their testimonies. Elaine Johnson, Refuge manager, spoke on the negative impact such a large influx of people and traffic would have on the Refuge and the narrow Riverside Rd. which crosses the lower dam. Several other home and landowners from the proposed development area also spoke.

The hearing began on April 16 and ended on April 17 when Kastera presented a completely revised proposal. After a conference with their

attorney, the County Commissioners rejected the last minute changes. Commissioner Ferdinand explained to everyone that a new hearing was necessary so those opposing the development would have the opportunity to read the proposed changes. Commissioners Ferdinand and Beebe told Mr. Forey, the Kastera spokesperson, that they couldn't approve the proposal as it stood and that Kastera should talk with the Canyon Development Services Department about concerns the commissioners and the opposition had with their proposal. Mr. Forey was not happy with this delay and said so several times. Another hearing has been scheduled for May 30.

Please join us at the hearing if you are available.

WHY THE EAGLE GRINS

By Bob Christensen

The bald eagles at the refuge began their breeding and nesting activities in February this year. Breeding activities include pair bonding, aerial displays, mating, and nest re-building. When a pair of eagles begins sitting on a nest to incubate eggs, we refer to the nest, or nesting territory, as "active" or "occupied." Then we begin to watch the nests to determine whether each territory remains occupied, and whether the nesting pairs are successful in raising young.

At Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge there are two occupied nesting territories that have been active for the last several years, one at the Narrows, west of the visitor center, which can be viewed from a distance of less than a quarter mile; and the other is on the east side of Lake Lowell and can be viewed from Tio Lane, at a distance of about one mile.

I have been watching both nests, about every 10 days, since the first of March to determine the level of nesting activity. Spotting a bright white head in the midst of brown trunks, limbs, and twigs is a sure give away of an occupied nest site. Quite often I would also see the mate (presumably the male) perched nearby the nest site. In the case of the Narrows nesting territory, the male preferred perching on

the artificial perch pole to the north. In the east side nesting territory it was harder to spot the male. He used a variety of trees, both close and far from the nest. One day I was looking for him and couldn't find him, when all of a sudden I noticed a thin line of dark color merging with the gray of the main tree trunk about 10 feet above the nest. Changing my position, I was then able to see the dark back and white tail feathers of the male, as he perched in vigil above his mate.

The average incubation time for bald eagle eggs is about 35 days. So, after the first of April, I began to expect that eaglets had hatched in both nests, especially, as I noticed more activity at the nest by both par-

ents. While the females, for the most part, were still sitting low on the nest, the males could be seen perched on the edge or moving along the perimeter of the nest rearranging the sticks and cocking their heads as if listening for the new arrivals. At times both parents were seen on the edge of the nest probing

their beaks and heads into the nest bowl.

At 9:45am on the morning of the April; 3th, I was keeping a close watch on the Narrows nest. The female was sitting on nest facing NE with a beaky grin on her face, as if she had a secret. The male was perched on his customary pole to the north. At 10:15am the male left his perch and flew into the nest tree--perching on a branch adjacent to the nest. At 10:20am he hopped on to the edge of nest. Then both



adults stood and began probing into the bowl of the nest with their beaks and began regurgitating food from their crops and feeding concealed young within the bowl of the nest. There was a prey carcass (dark-feathered bird) on the nest edge, from which they

WHY THE EAGLE GRINS

(con't)

occasionally picked strips of meat. At 10:25am the female flew off from nest to a perch in an adjacent tree. The male continued in his feeding mode, but soon settled onto the nest. As he settled in, a downy head popped up in front of his breast, but with a gentle nudge of his bill, he pressed it back into the nest. Again, the precocious eaglet raised its scrawny neck for a look around, and once more his father pressed him back down under his dark breast. And was that a grin on his beak, below the intimidating green eyes?

Side Observation:

While watching the bald eagle on the nest at the Narrows, I spied two red-tailed hawks in territorial conflict over Lake Lowell to the west. The aggressor would stoop in steep dives toward his adversary, who in turn would roll onto his back with open talons extended toward the oncoming combatant. This happened several times until the mates of the feuding hawks appeared, soaring high above the aerial battlefield, adding their screams to the mock battle. In a few minutes the two

pairs parted, with one circling south and the other flying lazily north. However, the northbound male hawk, still with the heat of battle his veins, couldn't resist the threatening presence of the male bald eagle on his pole perch. The hawk made a steep dive downward, buzzing close by the eagle on his perch. But the eagle was indifferent to the attack and hardly glanced up at the pesky hawk

Earth Day 2007



We used our new Friends booth for the first time at the Earthfest in Boise on April 21. We had a beautiful day and lots of people getting information from our booth and learning more about Deer Flat Refuge and The Friends of DFWR. Its always a surprise to learn that so many people in Boise don't know about the Refuge and the wonderful opportunities it offers. The little kids loved petting the Barn Owl and the Common Merganser loaned to us by the Refuge. It was great seeing so many people interested in helping the environment.

Many thanks to Connie Leavett, Gary Worthington, Noreen Tripp, Genevieve Johannsen and Al and Lee McGlinsky for staffing the booth.



FRIENDS OF DEER FLAT WILDLIFE REFUGE

13751 Upper Embankment Road
Nampa, Idaho 83686-8046

Executive Board:

President - Noreen Tripp (468-0402)

Vice President - John Augsburger (362-2769)

Treasurer/Secretary - Kris Horton (461-9717)

Upcoming Programs

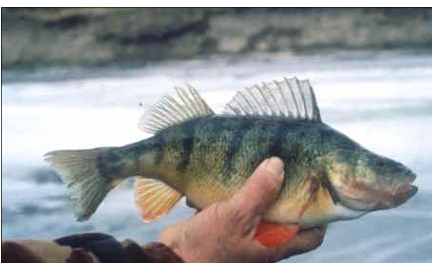
May 1 - General Meeting

Lyndell Jackson and Jon Minkoff will present a program about their trip in March to the Friends conference in Washington, DC

May 8 - Local Fish Identification

Amy Parrish with Idaho Fish and Game will show us how to identify Idaho's fish, and the importance of riparian areas and human impact.

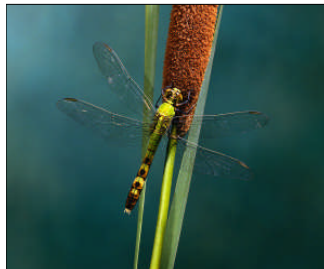
Yellow Perch



June 5 - BioBlitz Diversity

What is it and why do we care?

This interactive presentation will concentrate on animal diversity and the roles that zoos play in conservation efforts. Join Rena Ashton from Zoo Boise will lead the discussion.



July 3 - General Meeting

To Be Announced.

The Friend's group general meeting will be held right after the program.